

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CU-04 HA-05

/102 W

-----116489 241034Z /10

P R 231603Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6091

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 0950

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AO, NI, RH, SF, MR, NO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NETO'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NETO OF ANGOLA VISITED NIGERIA JAN. 15 TO 20. THE OFFICIAL RECEPTION WAS REPORTEDLY COOL. IN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT NETO AND GEN. OBASANJO DISCUSSED SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE WESTERN SAHARA. IN A PREDEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE NETO TALKED ABOUT CABINDA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND THE OGADEN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT ANTONIO AGESTINHE NETO OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA VISITED NIGERIA JAN. 15 TO 20
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ACCOMPANIED BY: COMMANDANT JESE LUIS NETO, CHIEF OF STAFF AND VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE; COMMANDANT PADRE VAN-DUNEN, THIRD VICE PRIME MINISTER; PAULO T. JORGE, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; AND MAJOR BENTO RIBEIRE, MINISTER ENERGY AND INDUSTRY& IN ADDITION TO TALKS WITH THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, HE VISITED THE 'COUNTRYSIDE' (BAUCHI AND BORNO STATES) AND RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS.

3. PREARRIVAL COMMENTARY IN THE PRESS SET A COOL TONE FOR NETO'S VISIT. THE DAILY TIMES IN A JAN. 14 EDITORIAL AND JAN. 16 COLUMN WELCOMED NETO BUT WENT ON TO LIST VARIOUS PROBLEMS. IN ITS EDITORIAL THE TIMES POINTED OUT THAT ANGOLA WAS UNABLE TO ACT EFFECTIVELY AS A BULWARK AGAINST THE MINORITY REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA BECAUSE IT IS NOT SELF-RELIANT, DEPENDS ON FOREIGN TROOPS, IS STILL FIGHTING WITH UNITA, IS NOT STABLE (CITING THE COUP ATTEMPT AND RUMBLING ABOUT NETO'S ALLEGED PREFERENCE FOR MULATTOES AND HAS A SICK ECONOMY.

4. THE JAN. 16 COLUMN WAS MORE SPECIFIC ON BILATERAL RELATIONS NOTING THAT A TRADE AND COOPERATION TREATY UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR TWO YEARS IS STILL NOT SIGNED, THAT ANGOLA HAD NOT RATIFIED AN AGREEMENT TO ALLOW NIGERIAN TRAWLERS TO FISH IN ANGOLAN WATERS, THAT ANGOLA'S SUPPORT FOR NIGERIA'S SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT HAD BEEN 'LUKEWARM,' THAT ANGOLA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NIGERIA WAS ONE OF RESERVE ALMOST BORDERING ON SUSPICION, THAT ANGOLA HAD NEVER PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED NIGERIA'S HELP IN OBTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE AND THAT GARBA'S RECEPTION IN ANGOLA IS 'SOMETIMES LESS THAN CORDIAL IF NOT FROSTY.'

5. EARLY IN HIS TOUR DURING A VISIT TO BAUCHI, NETO PRAISED NIGERIA
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AND MADE A PITCH FOR MORE ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT ANGOLA'S LIBERATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FINANCIAL, MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE FMG AND THAT THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH AID WOULD ENABLE ANGOLA TO CONSOLIDATE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND CHOOSE ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT PATH. REPLYING, THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF BAUCHI, LT. COL. MUHAMMED BELLO KALIEL, ASSURED NETO THAT THE FMG WILL CONTINUE TO HELP OPPRESSED AFRICANS.

6. ONE OF THE MORE IMPRESSIVE ASPECTS OF NETO'S VISIT WAS HIS VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE 'IN APPRECIATION OF HIS STRUGGLES TO FREE HIS PEOPLE FROM THE CLUTCHES OF IMPERIALISM.' THE STUDENTS WERE PREPARED TO WELCOME HIM WITH GREAT FANFARE. HIS PATH HAD BEEN COVERED WITH PALM LEAVES AND STUDENTS DRESSED IN WHITE CARRYING PALM LEAVES LINED THE WAY. ONE STUDENT WAS DRESSED UP AND SITTING ON A THRONE TO WELCOME HIM. HIS SPEECH HOWEVER, WAS LESS SUCCESSFUL. ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT AUDIENCE WAS OBVIOUSLY PRO-NETO, HE QUICKLY LOST THEM SPEAKING IN PORTUGUESE AND USING A WHITE TRANSLATER. EVEN THEN HIS SPEECH ON SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM WENT OVER BETTER WITH THE STUDENT BODY THAN THE MEMBERS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT PRESENT RESPLENDENT IN BROCADES AND LACE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT

DIRECTLY ATTACK THE U.S. OR OTHER WESTERN NATIONS, SOME OF HIS

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REMARKS COULD HAVE APPLIED TO NIGERIA. HE SAID THAT THE
LIBERATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT CANNOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION. HE
DEFINED LIBERATION AS A PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING A SOCIAL ORDER
THROUGH VIOLENCE AND SAID THAT LIBERATION FROM COLONIALISM WAS NOT
COMPLETE WITHOUT A REVOLUTION TO LIBERATE MAN FROM ANY FORM OF
SOCIAL DOMINATION SO THAT NO CLASS WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT
ANOTHER.

7. IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OBASANJO AND NETO MADE THE
USUAL STATEMENTS THAT THEY HAD IDENTIFIED AREAS OF FURTHER
COOPERATION, AGREED TO EXPLORE WAYS OF STRENGTHENING
RELATIONS WISHED TO REINFORCE CORDIAL RELATIONS, AGREED
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TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE UN, THE OAU, THE POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT AND THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

8. THEY ALSO 'COMMEDED' THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE 'UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT,' AND CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITY TO CONTINUE TO EXTEND ALL NECESSARY MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE. THEY CALLED ON GREAT BRITAIN, AS THE 'COLONIAL POWER' TO EXPEDITE THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. CONDEMNING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, THEY APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NOT TO RECOGNIZE 'ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT AIMED AT DENYING THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN AUTHENTIC LEADERS.'

9. THE TWO 'REAFFIRMED THEIR SOLIDARITY' WITH THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, 'UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO,' AND CALLED ON SOUTH AFRICA TO END ITS MILITARY OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA, INCLUDING WALVIS BAY. THEY ALSO PLEDGED THEIR 'UNWAVERING SUPPORT, MORAL, MATERIAL POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC, TO SWAPO, THE ONLY RECOGNIZED AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE.'

10. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO EXPRESSED 'THEIR SOLIDARITY AND CONTINUED UNFLINCHING SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE STRUGGLES TO FREE THE PEOPLE FROM THE SYSTEM OF HUMAN DEGRADATION,'

11. THEY EXPRESSED 'THEIR GRAVE CONCERN AND DEEP ANXIETY ABOUT INTER-STATES DISPUTES AND CONFLICTS IN AFRICA, AND APPEALED TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS IN THE NORMAL AFRICAN TRADITION.'

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AND CONDEMNED ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY 'THE REACTIONARY FORCES OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM.' IN PARTICULAR THEY 'DEPLORED THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN THE WESTERN SAHARA AND THE EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION THERE' AND REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

12. IN A PRE-DEPARTURE AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, NETO RESPONDED TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. IN REFERENCE TO ANGOLA'S RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE HE SAID THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTICE A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF ZAIRE TOWARD ANGOLA, ADDING THAT THE CHANGE OCCURRED BECAUSE 'ON BOTH

SIDES THERE IS A DESIRE FOR EXPLANATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING.' HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ANGOLA WOULD NOT GO TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE WITH ANY ORGANIZATION TO NEGOTIATE THE SECESSION OF CABINDA. 'WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE NO REASON TO HAVE TALKS WITH BANKITS AND PUPPETS WHO HAVE SET UP GOVERNMENTS OUTSIDE ANGOLA. WHY SHOULD WE?'

13. NETO CALLED ON THE OAU TO MEET URGENTLY TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE OGADEN REGIME. HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON IAN SMITH'S VISIT TO LUSAKA SAYING IT WAS THE BUSINESS OF ZAMBIA. HE ALSO CHARGED THAT THERE WERE ALMOST DAILY ATTACKS ON THE SOUTHERN ANGOLAN BORDER FROM 'REBEL' SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES.

14. COMMENT: DR. BULAJI AKINYENI, DIRECTOR OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE OFFICIAL RECEPTION OF NETO WAS COOL. HE SAID THE FMG VIEWS NETO AS DIFFICULT AND INEFFECTIVE AND IS UNCOMFORTABLE BEING ALLIED WITH A FAILURE. WHILE NIGERIANS WOULD LIKE TO HELP, THEY ARE BAFFLED BY THE SITUATION AND DO NOT KNOW HOW TO.

15. IN GENERAL, NETO'S VISIT WAS CORDIAL AND, OTHER THAN HIS PROBABLY UNINTENTIONAL FAUX PAS AT THE UNIVERSITY, CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEMED TO GO REASONABLY WELL. THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT WAS LESS THAN THAT ACCORDED TO THE POLISH HEAD OF STATE IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

16. WE ARE POUCHING FULL TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO AF/W.
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Message Attributes

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